



MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal: The "Polson Railroad" Timber Sale No. 30-074817 and the attached Forest Practices Application No. 2605500 is a 1 unit regeneration harvest of 35.7 acres of a 60 year old western hemlock stand on Common School trust land. The sale is located in the Coast District of the Olympic Region, approximately 15 miles north of Hoquiam, Washington. The estimated volume to be harvested from this sale is 958 MBF.

Description of mitigation: Several measures have been taken to ensure that this proposal will not contribute to adverse environmental impacts. Approximately 7 acres of the original proposal were tagged out of the sale for riparian management zones to protect the type 3 stream and associated wetlands. These RMZ's are 156' wide, equivalent to the 100 year site index. There will be no harvest activities within the buffers. RMZ's protect water quality, stream bank integrity, hydrology, sensitive soils, and habitat for riparian species. They also provide large woody debris (LWD) recruitment and habitat for riparian species. Furthermore, the RMZ's will develop old-forest characteristics that, in combination with other strategies, will help support old-forest dependant wildlife populations in the future. The South Coast marbled murrelet model identified this stand as re-classified marbled murrelet habitat. The area has now been surveyed for two years and no occupancy has been detected.

Retaining 9.6 leave trees per acre in the regeneration harvest area provides legacy elements for recruitment of future snags, coarse woody debris, multi-layered stands, and large diameter trees. In combination these features will provide elements of old forest habitat characteristics within the next rotation. By managing to develop climax forest characteristics, habitats will be provided for wildlife species dependent on old forest habitat.

Existing roads will be maintained to divert storm water onto stable forest floor to prevent delivery of sediment to live streams. To protect soil productivity and reduce erosion, ground based operations will be suspended during periods of wet weather or wet soil conditions when rutting of skid or shovel roads begins. Following harvest, the site will be replanted with western hemlock and Douglas fir and managed as forestland. These measures will minimize harvest and road impacts on the environment.

Proponent: Department of Natural Resources – Olympic Region

Location of proposal, including street address, if any: Section 36, Township 20 North, Range 10 West, W.M.

Lead agency: Department of Natural Resources

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on

request.

☐ There is no comment period for this Mitigated DNS.

☒ This MDNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for ~~14~~ days from July 10, 2003. Comments must be submitted by July 24, 2003

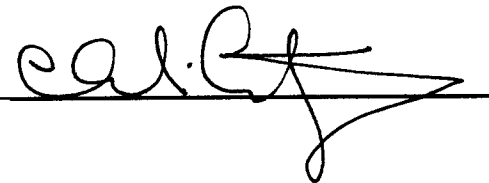
Responsible official: Charlie Cortelyou

Position/title Region Manager

Phone 360-374-6131

Address Department of Natural Resources – Olympic Region
411 Tillicum Lane
Forks, WA 98331

Date 6/27/03

Signature 

There is no agency SEPA appeal.
11/09/00